WTCI-593-P

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Corrado Vasquez, Manager, Risk Management Division
FROM: Maria Malone
DATE: June 4, 1979
SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM - QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BAYSIDE, NEW YORK

COPY TO: Messrs. W. Connell, H.R. Pool, Jr.

On May 11, 1979, I attended the Environmental Health Symposium held at Queensborough Community College, Bayside, New York,

The subjects covered included the effects of dusts, the general health status of the American people, toxic substances in the environment and industrial health and safety.

Dr. Edwin C. Holstein, of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York City, spoke about the biological effects of dusts. He elaborated extensively on the positive identification of silica and asbestos and the appropriate actions to be taken in order to eliminate any health risk that may be present.

As a visual aid to demonstrate the uses of asbestos, Dr. Holstein showed a slide of the interior of an unfinished floor of the World Trade Center and idefitified it as such. It is incorrectly implied that the World Trade Center is an unhealthy place to work and also that the entire World Trade Center is fire-proofed with asbestos. I would recommend that the Public Affairs Department be alerted to this situation and that Dr. Holstein be made aware of the Risk Management Division's latest findings concerning this matter.

Dr. Robert Harkins of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc. addressed himself to the general health issue of the American people. He discussed the various effects of the American type of nutrition. The beneficial results such as increased longevity and the detrimental effects such as the increase of nutritionally related disease were presented.

Dr. Erwin Tichauer of New York University spoke on Biomechanics which he considers a new frontier in preventative occupational medicine. As a scion of Dr. Tichauer's biomechanical theory, the science

of Ergonomics tries to compare [illegible] the health, safety and productivity of workers. This innovative approach is certain to become a major theme in the Environmental Health field of the future.

Dr. Lawrence Kornreich of the ITT Corporation gave a luncheon speech on Environmental Health in Industry. He stressed goal which he believed to be most important for the environmentalist of the present and the future: the creation of the safest possible work places, regardless of cost.

Roundtable discussions were divided into two areas, the private sector and the public sector. Both sessions were extremely informative, because many varying viewpoints on exposure to toxic substances were presented.

The meeting was most useful to the Risk Management Division in that the information set forth will keep the Environmental Protection Program of the Port Authority aware of the latest developments in Environmental Health.

Maria Malone
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Risk Management Division

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